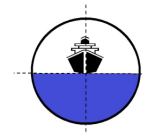




# UP PERISCOPE



**Providing Information about the U. S. Submarine Force**

## VITAL LINKS

[U.S. Navy Homepage](#)

[Commander, Naval Submarine Force Homepage](#)

[Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet](#)

[Undersea Warfare Magazine](#)

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## From Commander, Naval Submarine Forces

Greetings and welcome to this year's first edition of "Up Periscope." Since I assumed command in October from Admiral Kirk Donald, I have had greater opportunity to get to know more about our Navy's submarine force and the people who make up the Undersea Enterprise. I am impressed with our record of achievement and continual effort to maintain our nation's dominance of the open ocean as well as the littoral or shallow waters.

The capability we bring to our national defense is more relevant today than ever before as submarines bring unique value in forward areas and in the pre-hostility phase of combat. Our military leadership recognizes the need to continue to leverage submarines' unique combination of attributes - stealth, agility, endurance and firepower. While we cannot openly discuss in detail our contributions to the Global War on Terrorism and other efforts in support of national defense, the American public can be assured that we are contributing significantly each and every day towards these endeavors.

I hope as you read some highlights of this past year's achievements, you will be reminded of your visit to one of our "boats." Should you desire to learn more about any of the information in this edition, please feel free to contact our Public Affairs office. I also invite you to use our website as a "scope" to view up-to-date news about our professional Sailors and the technological marvels they operate in. Lastly, I ask that you continue to share your memories and impressions of our submarine force with your peers and community. Your part in helping us communicate to others the value and tremendous capabilities of the submarine force would be greatly appreciated. Best wishes to you and yours on a successful 2005!

Sincerely,

CHUCK MUNNS

Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy

## From One Generation to the Next

*Tradition is passed on at USS Virginia (SSN 774) Commissioning*

By JO2 Diane Jones, USNR

NORFOLK, Va. -- USS Virginia (SSN-774), the ninth naval vessel to be named after the "Old Dominion," received her orders "to come to life" on Saturday, October 23. With those orders was a personal touch -- a long glass presented from the Command Master Chief of the now-decommissioned guided missile cruiser USS Virginia (CGN-48).

Retired Master Chief Fire Control Technician Fred Wright presented Lt. Paul Frontera, Virginia's Navigator, the traditional long glass as Frontera assumed the first watch as Officer of the Deck. Wright was the commissioning Command Master Chief of the now decommissioned Virginia.

"When I was asked to present the long glass, I felt really proud. I almost leaped through the overhead," said Wright. "It's a unique experience to have someone around long enough to see one Virginia decommissioned and then another Virginia commissioned in their lifetime," said Wright.

The long glass is a tradition traced back to the beginning of the Navy. "The long glass is passed from ship to ship and given to the first watch officer upon commissioning," said White.

USS Virginia (CGN 38) was decommissioned in 1994. The newest Virginia is the first nuclear-powered Virginia class fast attack submarine. Virginia is the Navy's first delivered major combatant designed with the post-Cold war security environment in mind and embodies the war fighting and operational capabilities required to dominate the littorals while maintaining undersea dominance in the open ocean. Virginia is 377 feet in length, has a waterline beam of 34 feet, a navigational draft of 32 feet, displaces approximately 7,800 tons submerged, can dive to depths greater than 800 feet, and can sustain speeds of more than 25 knots when submerged.

"I've never served on a submarine in my career, but it was a true privilege to be part of the commissioning of this awesome machine," said Wright.

Virginia will be homeported in Groton, Conn., where the officer of the deck will stand his watch with the long glass in hand,



## **Submarine Force in 2004**

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### **First Lady Laura Bush Christens PCU Texas**

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (NNS) -- First Lady Laura Bush christened Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) Texas (SSN 775) in a ceremony at the Northrop-Grumman Newport News Shipyard July 31. The submarine is the second of the new Virginia-class submarines.

### **Rim of the Pacific 2004 offers participants valuable submarine warfare experience**

PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII--Every two years, thousands of Sailors from the Pacific allied countries converge in Hawaii for the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise. For RIMPAC 2004, more than 18,000 personnel aboard submarines and surface ships from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Japan, South Korea and Chile tested their capabilities in a collaborative maritime effort.

### **Submarines Vital to Navy's Fleet Response Plan**

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- The submarine force surged and deployed 17 submarines and a submarine tender in support of Summer Pulse '04, the Navy's first exercise under the Fleet Response Plan (FRP). Summer Pulse '04 tested the full range of skills involved in simultaneously deploying and employing carrier strike groups around the world.

### **TTF unveils newest simulator, new dimension for training Sailors**

KINGS BAY, GA -- Trident Training Facility unveiled the newest gem in its training crown Aug. 25 - the \$5 million Fleet Interactive Display Equipment training simulator. TTF is the first facility to receive a Fleet IDE, which replicates the maneuvering room aboard an Ohio-class submarine.

### **Submarine Force moves forward in IP connectivity for the fleet**

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- The Submarine Force achieved a major step toward FORCEnet capability with the completion of the first of three steps toward full Internet Protocol, or IP-based, communications, achieving forcewide IP connectivity.

### **Silent Service Packs More of a Punch**

ABOARD USS GEORGIA - For the crew of this ballistic-turned-cruise missile nuclear submarine, the ongoing Silent Hammer experiment isn't just a sea trial. It's a sea change.

## **Submarine Force in Video ...**

### **USS Hampton Surfaces on "Top of the World"**

### **Keel Laid for Newest Virginia-class Submarine**

### **ISMERLO Center Opens in Norfolk**

### **USS Virginia (SSN 774) Commissioned in Norfolk**

### **USS Portsmouth (SSN 707): The Final Ride**

## **2004 in Pictures**



The Los Angeles-class submarine USS Albuquerque (SSN 706) surfaces in the Atlantic Ocean while participating in Majestic Eagle 2004. Albuquerque was one of 17 submarines deployed during Summer Pulse 2004. (Photo by PHAN Rob Gasten)



The nation's newest and most advanced nuclear-powered attack submarine USS Virginia (SSN 774) passes the skyline of Portsmouth, Va. Virginia was commissioned on October 23, 2004. (Photo by JO2 Christina Shaw)



Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter smashes a bottle of champagne against the sail of the Seawolf-class nuclear attack submarine Jimmy Carter (SSN 23). The submarine was delivered to the fleet Dec. 22, 2004. (Photo by JO3 Steven Feller)

[\*\*CLICK HERE for more photos\*\*](#)

February 2005

## **Commander, Naval Submarine Forces**

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